

## Journal Watch – Psychosocial Issues & Prognostication – April 2018

**Article:**

Impact of Prognostic Discussion on the Patient-Physician Relationship: Prospective Cohort Study

Fenton JJ, Duberstein PR, Kravitz RL, Xing G, Tancredi DJ, Fiscella K, Mohile S, Epstein RM

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**Review:**

**Strengths:**

- Prospective Cohort Study
- Observer coded and patient reported measures of prognostic discussion with similar conclusions
- Quantitative assessment of patient-physician relationship

**Weaknesses:**

- Two US regions California and New York,
- low non-white representation,
- Limited information about the content or quality of the prognostic discussions
- What is the true significance of a 0.1-0.2 increase in the THC scale?

**Relevance to Palliative Care:** Prognostic discussion and disclosure not harmful to the doctor patient relationship but requires understanding the patient's hopes and aspirations, applying tact and skill in sharing information, inquiring into patients' emotions, and being sensitive to timing.